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**SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS OF JUVENILE
CONVICTS' RESOCIALIZATION IN THE PROBATION SERVICE**

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The article studies social and psychological conditions of juvenile convicts' resocialization in the probation service. Serving an imprisonment sentence leads juvenile offenders to lose their social skills and it is difficult for them to adapt in society, because the personality of a juvenile offender regresses in isolation. Due to the humanization of criminal policy in Ukraine, the judicial system is changing to give preference to alternative punishments, not related to imprisonment. One such re-socializing form for juvenile offenders is probation. This punishment avoids adolescent social isolation during the most important period of personality formation.

The main stages of social-psychological work with juveniles sentenced to alternative punishments are: examination of their personality, determination of measures and methods having effective social-psychological influence on them, preparation of individual resocialization

programs and adolescents' integration to society on the basis of these programs.

We determined the content of social workers' work to re-socialize juvenile offenders.

During our empirical study, we analysed documents and organised a survey to examine social workers' functions in working with juvenile convicts and determine an expert opinion about the need for a social worker position in the probation services where juvenile convicts were registered.

The sample consisted of specialists from the probation services of the city of Kyiv and Kyiv region, who worked with juvenile convicts, totally, 28 respondents.

The empirical data revealed that, mainly, the specialists in law studied the features of adolescents' personality traits and upbringing. Probation services did not have social workers in their working structure. And these facts, in turn, makes it impossible to provide high-quality resocialization. In particular, the pre-trial reports, risk assessment for repeated criminal offenses, work with juvenile convicts' parents, organization of constructive leisure, etc. are performed by specialists without any competencies in social work. However, according to the empirical data, respondents believed that specialists in social work should participate actively in resocialization of juvenile convicts, as they would understand the features of adolescence and, therefore, would be able to work in cooperation to assess qualitatively recidivism, assist and encourage adolescents to study and get an education.

Keywords: *resocialization, probation, social work, convicted adolescents.*

Introduction

In the conditions of social transformations, the problem of juvenile convicts' resocialization is even more acute. If a juvenile offender is

sentenced to imprisonment, he/she loses social skills, it is difficult for him/her to adapt in society, because the personality of a juvenile offender regresses in isolation.

Due to the humanization of criminal policy in Ukraine, the judicial system is changing to give preference to alternative punishments, not related to imprisonment. One such re-socializing form for juvenile offenders is probation. This punishment avoids adolescent social isolation during the most important period of personality formation.

The problem is that the socio-psychological conditions for minors' resocialization have not been defined yet, and the corresponding algorithm of actions to fulfil the specified tasks has not yet been developed. Therefore, today, the issue of the ways, methods and means used by social workers for assistance to adolescents serving alternative forms of punishment is one of the most important because it slows down the implementation of probation service objectives.

The research object is the process of juvenile convicts' resocialization in the probation service.

The research purpose is to determine the content of social workers' job in order to re-socialize juvenile offenders.

Research methodology

The empirical study included document analysis and a survey. The survey aims were to study social and psychological conditions of juvenile convicts' resocialization in the probation service, in particular a social worker' role in working with them. It was important to find out an expert opinion on the need for a social worker position in probation services where juvenile convicts were registered.

The documents were analysed to determinate the job duties for specialists creating social and psychological conditions for juvenile convicts' resocialization.

The survey consisted of three modules and, accordingly, each module included 2-3 questions. There were the following modules:

1. Determining the expert opinion regarding available relevant competencies among the employees who examines juvenile offenders' psychological characteristics.
2. Identification of specialists responsible for the organization of juvenile convicts' constructive leisure.
3. Specialists' awareness of the need to introduce a social worker position the probation service.

With the first module, "Determining the expert opinion regarding available relevant competencies among the employees who examines juvenile offenders' psychological characteristics", we determined who should examine a juvenile offender' personality. In our opinion, a social worker should supervise juvenile offenders, as such specialist understands the peculiarities of adolescence and, therefore, will be able to work in cooperation to assist, help adolescents.

With the second module, "Identification of specialists responsible for the organization of juvenile convicts' constructive leisure", we investigated who actually was engaged in the social and educational activities with juveniles in accordance with individual work plans and identified social needs; who developed programs for work with juvenile offenders in order to form their motivation for positive changes, aggression overcoming and emotion management.

With the third module "Specialists' awareness of the need to introduce a social worker position the probation service", we investigated the extent to which experts were aware of the need to introduce a social worker position n the probation service.

The reviewed literature sources covering the topic of our research showed that many Ukrainian scientists, for example, M. Gutsulyak, O.

Zvenigorodskyi, A. Stepaniuk, V. Trubnikov, O. Yanchuk, I. Yakovets and others studied resocialization of convicts under alternative punishments. N. Miller, S. Becker, R. Merton, R. Sears and other foreign researchers studied criminal human behaviour developed as consequences of unfavourable microsocial environment or improper education. The issues of content, forms and methods of social workers' social-psychological assistance for juvenile convicts in the probation service were covered in the works: O. Betsa, T. Zhuravel and others. Issues of educational and preventive work with juveniles sentenced to alternative punishments were considered in studies of I. Zvereva, Y. Krasilova and others.

The main part of the article

1. Stages of the study

1.1. Regulatory framework review. Resocialization in Ukraine is implemented through the probation service. In our study, we rely on the legal framework which includes: the Law of Ukraine "On Probation", "On approval of the Standard Regulations for the authorized body providing probation services", "Standard Regulations for the Juvenile Probation Sector", the Law of Ukraine "On Social Work with Families, Children and Youth", the Law of Ukraine "On Social Services" and relevant articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. The Law of Ukraine "On Probation" entered into force in 2015. The probation service is aimed at providing juvenile offenders with conditions for normal physical and mental development, aggressive behaviour prevention, motivation for positive personality changes and improvement of their social relations [14]. The provisions of the Law of Ukraine "On Probation" and "Standard Regulations for the Juvenile Probation Sector" include those that are directly related to social specialists' work, namely: social support and crime prevention; social and educational work; work with parents, protection of minors' rights, etc. [13,14].

In addition, according to “Standard Regulations for the Juvenile Probation Sector”, social specialists in probation services should organize and conduct social and educational work with juveniles; create individual plans and programs for juvenile convicts aimed at motivating them to positive changes, learning life skills, development of social-psychological competencies and a sense of empathy; organize activities for minors’ constructive leisure, the development of their socio-psychological competence and a sense of empathy [13].

The Decree of the President of Ukraine “On the concept of minors’ criminal justice development in Ukraine” states that minor offenders’ re-education and resocialization will be facilitated by the justice that takes into account the age, socio-psychological, psychophysical and other features of the adolescent’s development [17]. Therefore, we believe that under such conditions, the resocialization process will be effective.

In our opinion, the concepts of resocialization and correction should be distinguished. In particular, according to the Criminal Executive Code of Ukraine, “correction” is understood as: “positive changes occurring in a personality and creating an individual’s readiness for self-directed, obedient behaviour.” Instead, “resocialization” is interpreted as: “a convict’s conscious restoration in the social status of a full member of society; returning him/her to an independent, generally accepted normative life in society” [4]. That is, to be re-socialized, an offender needs to perceive his/her illegal actions and start to live in accordance with the generally accepted norms of society.

The Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines) state that young people’s actions or behaviour that do not conform to the norms and values accepted in a particular society or country are in many cases related to their growing up, i.e. the behaviour of most people usually varies over time [21]. Therefore, namely at this age, it

is necessary to help adolescent resocialization in order to prevent further crimes.

It is also worth noting that Ukrainian legislation envisages a set of social services for families who find themselves in difficult life circumstances, which include social rehabilitation, counselling, social support, etc., provided directly by a social worker, which in turn contributes to juvenile offenders' resocialization [15,16].

1.2. Analysis of studies on the content, forms and methods.

The performed theoretical and methodological analysis revealed that convicts' resocialization is considered in the context of two fundamentally opposite paradigms: repressive and humanistic. Proponents of the first paradigm proceed from the idea that criminal inclinations are embedded in a person from the birth and they deny the possibility of qualitative changes in the human psyche (C.Lombroso, W. Sheldon, E. Fromm, etc.). Proponents of the humanistic paradigm prove that a person's criminal behaviour is a consequence of unfavourable microsocial environment and improper forms of child upbringing, so that it can be eliminated (E. Durkheim, R. Merton, R. Sears, etc.).

The problem of juvenile convicts' resocialization is it important today and it is studied both in Ukraine and abroad.

T. Aleksieienko considers resocialization as a complex social process that aims to overcome an individual's de-socialization, to restore the qualities necessary for normal life and to reorient the social direction of personality development by including into new positive interpersonal relationships and activities [1]. We agree with this definition, because the negative influence of peers is a cause for very many crimes committed by adolescents.

M. Yenikeev states that the need for resocialization arises where socialization was not successful and an individual, instead of socially and culturally accepted values and forms of behaviour, acquires antisocial ones existing in his/her social environment [22]. We believe such interpretation appropriate, since an adolescent with an antisocial orientation is not able to re-socialize.

In addition, the views of Ukrainian scientists who were at the origins of resocialization problem: V. Siniov, V. Kryvushi, O. Betsa, G. Radovand others are important for our study. Their research give us an idea on resocialization as a corrective process for juvenile convicts that form their law-abiding behaviour. These scientists also noted that it was extremely important to stimulate an offender to take a position in life that would meet social norms [19].

Therefore, we can say that the concept of “resocialization” includes several components: the restoration and development of socially useful ties both during the sentence and after release; formation of law-abiding behaviour; development of socially useful personality qualities. Moreover, resocialization should include socio-psychological aspects, such as the formation of life skills, a healthy lifestyle, a balanced locus of control, goal-setting skills, socially acceptable values, the ability to create positive social relationships, which together promote positive social adaptation in society.

The main stages of socio-psychological work with a minor sentenced to alternative punishments are: studying his/her personality, determining measures and methods of social-psychological influence on the minor, drawing up an individual resocialization program and integrating his/her into society, based on the implementation of this program.

Resocialization of juveniles released from probation is a new practice in social work, which implement the principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversity. Now, a transition

takes place from traditional approaches to convicts' correction to their personality development as a priority task.

V. Angolenko considers the socio-pedagogical assistance for juvenile offenders as such social work that is aimed at juvenile convicts' resocialization. The author understands socio-pedagogical assistance as a process that involves joint interaction, mutual support of the assisting and assisted people based on forecasting the prospects of juvenile behaviour and assessment of its manifestations to provide necessary help that stimulate a juvenile delinquent think about oneself as a personality; to ensure his/her socially acceptable behaviour, communication; to help in learning in order to obtain a profession necessary for full-fledged life and professional self-determination; to motivate independence, learning new social roles, gaining experience of appropriate social behaviour [2]. In addition, socio-pedagogical assistance for juvenile offenders whose sentence was changed for a probation is understood as a special socio-pedagogical and psychological assistance, patronage over a juvenile offender and his/her family; a complex socio-pedagogical process based on to the understanding of individual characteristics of a person who has reached the age of criminal responsibility; the aim of this process is to change socially negative significant views, interests, goals acquired by a juvenile offender under the adverse socializing influence into socially positive ones.

Thus, we can say that the aim of socio-psychological and pedagogical assistance for juveniles whose sentence was changed for a probation is to promote primarily their resocialization, preparing them for further life in society, as well as pedagogical correction necessary for elimination of socio-pedagogical neglect and promotion of juvenile offenders' responsible attitude to their physical and mental health.

Thus, the reviewed researchers fully revealed the general issues of convicted juveniles' resocialization. However, the issues of social work aimed at re-socialization of juvenile convicts registered at the probation service are not fully disclosed. It is necessary to determine the conditions of juvenile convicts' resocialization, to determine the content, forms and methods used by service staff who could provide at appropriate levels a quality basis for juveniles' adaptation to resocialization.

1.3. The foreign experience of juvenile convicts' resocialization. In order to form an idea on an effective system of convicted juveniles' resocialization, it would be appropriate to consider the experience of some countries. Existing resocialization systems are characterized by the institutionalization of penitentiary bodies for minors or the abandonment of such special institutions. In some countries there are special closed institutions for juvenile offenders (the USA, Canada, France, China), others are rapidly abandoning them, opening day care centres, probation services, which provide comprehensive assistance to adolescents and their families (Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Germany) [7].

The Probation Service in Georgia was established in 2001 and it implements several probation programs, including: psycho-rehabilitation programs; professional and educational trainings; social-cultural work with convicts. Depending on a person's risk level, an individual plan for work with the convict is drawn up and appropriate programs are applied, in particular: group meetings for probationers or their family members discussing life values, the ability to cope with anger and stress, communication skills, conflict management, leadership and assertive behaviour, healthy lifestyle, sports programs for minors.

The "probationers" (as probation service attendants are called in Georgia) help the elderly and children by visiting nursing homes and shelters, participate in donations on a voluntary basis, also participate in

activities for park cleaning and landscaping, and help restore churches and monasteries. In addition, various sports competitions are held for probationers [18].

Analysing the work provided by Georgia's probation services, we can note that juvenile delinquents are not only involved in socially useful affairs, but also take care of their interests and preferences. We believe that activities conducted with juvenile delinquents help them to change their worldview and reassess life values, that is, they positively influence adolescents.

There are legal services for young people staffed by social workers in Germany. Specialists help juvenile delinquents after crime discovering, even before initiated criminal proceedings. Social workers help rehabilitate offenders, even before a court verdict. Also, social workers of the Juvenile Justice Service estimate the social conditions of adolescents' life, study their personality, socio-psychological circumstances of the crime and submit a report to the court, proposing punishment [3].

For example, special social programs were introduced in the Netherlands that create conditions for adolescents' re-socialization. HALT (Het ALTERNatief) was introduced in 2000; this system is intended for 12-18-year-old adolescents who committed a first or minor crime, teenagers are required to have some trainings and programs promoting their resocialization or to perform community service. There is also a program for adolescents under the age of 12 who committed offenses - STOP-response: children and their families solve problems such as conflicts and peer pressure, inadequate moral education of children, difficulties in assessing a situation, etc. [7]. We should note that an important method is constant pedagogical assistance for parents, which improves the relationship between children and parents.

2. The stage of the empirical study. The empirical study lasted for two months. The respondents were specialists from probation services in the city of Kyiv and Kyiv region. The sample was complete and consisted of 28 respondents, i.e. all professionals who worked with juvenile convicts. The documental analysis included: staffing, work plans and reports, personal files of juvenile convicts, pre-trial reports. We found that probation services did not have social workers in staff. Only three probation services sometimes invited social workers working in other social services to carry out certain tasks.

By generalizing the obtained data, we defined activities that were in the direct concern of social workers, according to the respondents' opinion. In particular, 20 respondents said that pre-trial reports on minors' personal traits were prepared usually by inspectors. This was evidenced by the following answers: "Pre-trial report is prepared by an inspector, but in my opinion, it should be prepared by a social educator", "A report is prepared by an inspector, but a social work specialist would do it better". Another 5 respondents indicated that pre-trial reports were prepared by an inspector in cooperation with a psychologist, in particular: "A pre-trial report is prepared by an inspector who is sometimes consulted by a psychologist", "A pre-trial report is prepared by a psychologist with the help of an inspector". Only 3 respondents mentioned that social workers should prepare pre-trial reports on minors' personal traits in their organisations (see **Fig.1**).

Risk assessment as for repeated criminal offending was prepared mainly by inspectors. In particular, 22 respondents said that chief inspectors dealt with this issue. However, they noted that these tasks would be more appropriate for social workers. This was evidenced by the following statements: "This task is more appropriate for social specialists, but it is done by our chief inspector", "In my opinion, this task should be done by

inspectors in cooperation with other specialists: a psychologist, a social worker.

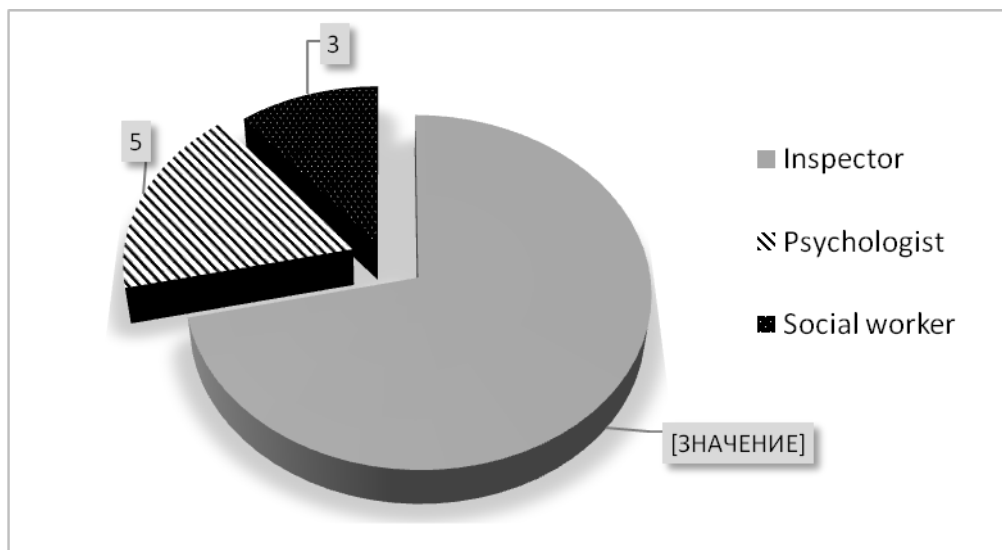


Fig.1 The list of specialists who prepare pre-trial reports on minors' personal traits according to their job tasks

Our inspector does this task". Only 6 respondents indicated that social workers dealt with this issue in their organisations.

Thus, for the first module, we can conclude that the functions of a social worker are performed mainly by other professionals. However, probation specialists' answers showed that a social worker needed for high-quality social and psychological assistance for juvenile offenders and examination of their personal traits.

Our study showed also who in practice organized and implemented social and educational activities with minors and developed work programs addressing their special needs. If necessary, inspectors organized work with parents or other legal representatives of minors. Thus, 22 respondents said that inspector did mainly these tasks in their organisations; 5 respondents said that social workers should deal this issue with in their organisations, and only 1 respondent believed that these activities could be organized by any specialist of the probation service (see **Fig.2**).

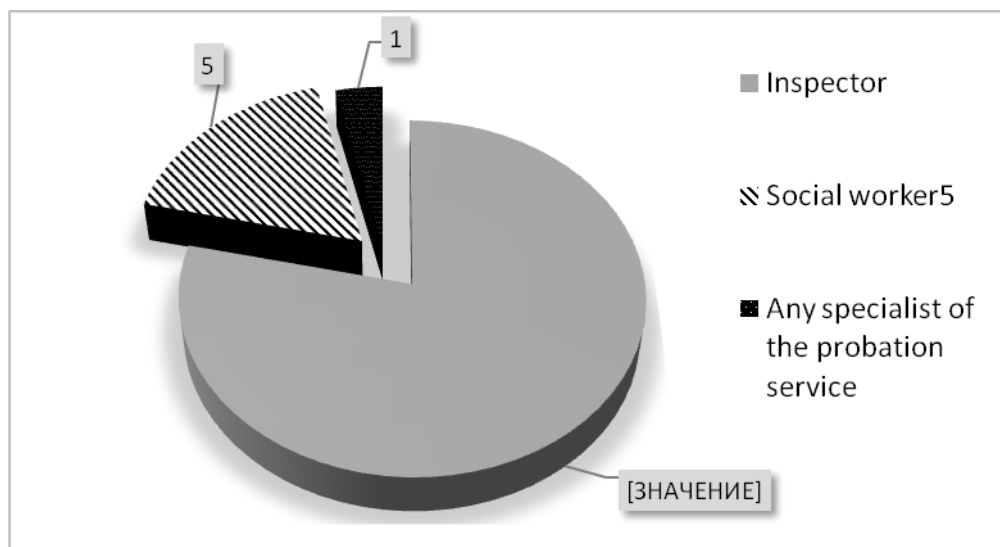


Fig. 2. The list of specialists who should organize work with parents or legal representatives of minors

As for organization of activities for minors' constructive leisure, 16 respondents said that this is done by the head of the department in their organization, 8 respondents believed that such activities should be performed "by each probation specialist in cooperation with others to achieve high encouragement" and 4 respondents stated that "an assisting social specialist should encourage convicted juveniles' efforts" (see **Fig. 3**).

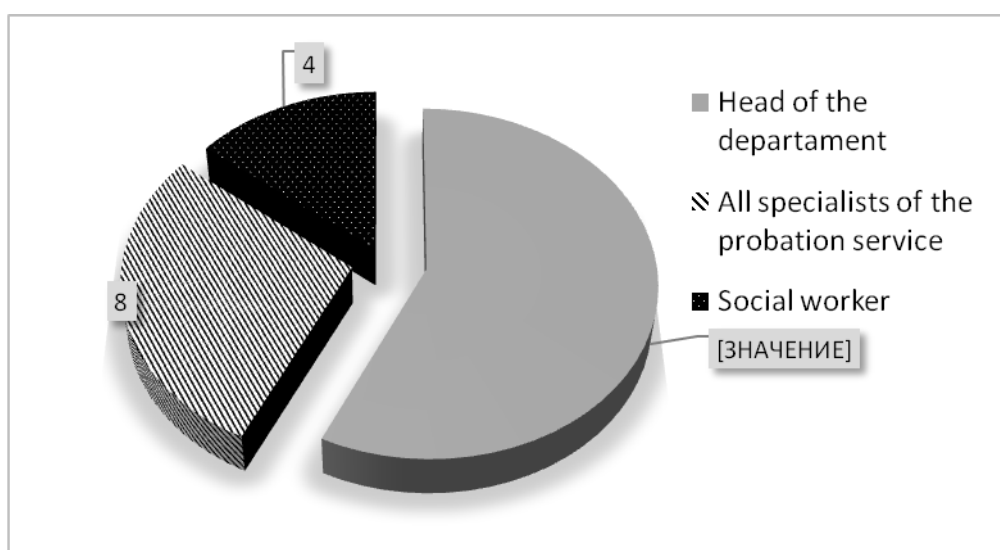


Fig. 3. The list of specialists who should organize constructive leisure of minors

Thus, for the second module, we can conclude that constructive leisure, which motivate juvenile convicts for positive changes, was

organized mainly by specialists who did not have competencies in social work, social pedagogy or psychology.

By analysing the obtained data, we can conclude that the vast majority of probation services do not have any social worker in their staff. And these fact, in turn, makes it impossible to provide high-quality social and educational work and resocialization, in general. This was confirmed by the respondents' answers revealing that social workers' functions and tasks were performed mainly by other specialists.

Conclusions

The performed theoretical analysis of scientific sources determining the content of social work with juvenile convicts for their resocialization showed that resocialization of juvenile convicts in the probation service should be based on joint interactions between a social worker and a convicted adolescent.

Social work with juvenile offenders in the probation service should be based on forecasting the prospects of a juvenile convict's personal development and behaviour; measures aimed at the organization of minors' constructive leisure, the creation of conditions that encourage juvenile offenders to understand themselves as a personality, ensure their socially acceptable behaviour; assistance in obtaining a profession necessary for full-fledged life and professional self-realization; encouraging independence and new social roles.

The obtained empirical data showed that specialists in law studied mainly the features of adolescents' personality traits and upbringing. However, the respondents believed that specialists in social work and social pedagogy should participate actively in resocialization of juvenile convicts, as they would understand the features of adolescence and, therefore, would be able to work in cooperation aimed at qualitative assessment of

recidivism, social-psychological assistance and encouraging adolescents to obtain education.

So, the socio-psychological conditions of juvenile convicts' resocialization in the probation service consist in providing juvenile offenders with high-quality social services that contribute to their return to life in society; and this fact emphasizes the importance of a social worker for adolescents' resocialization.

Having a social worker in staff will improve the quality of measures provided in probation services for juvenile convicts. The content of social work with juvenile convicts in the probation service is aimed at restoring their social status, lost or undeveloped social skills, reorientation of personality by inclusion of adolescents into new positive relationships and activities.

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